

The First Epistle General of **Peter**

[1 PETER]

1

Salutation

- 1 Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ,
¶ To the strangers scattered throughout Pontus, Galatia,
Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia,
2 elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through
sanctification of the Spirit, unto obedience and sprinkling of the
blood of Jesus Christ:
¶ Grace unto you, and peace, be multiplied.

The Christian's Hope and Salvation

- 3 ¶ Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which
according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a
lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,
4 to an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not
away, reserved in heaven for you,
5 who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation
ready to be revealed in the last time.
6 Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye
are in heaviness through manifold temptations:
7 that the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold
that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto
praise and honor and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ:
8 whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see *him*
not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory:
9 receiving the end of your faith, *even* the salvation of *your* souls.
10 ¶ Of which salvation the prophets have inquired and searched
diligently, who prophesied of the grace *that should come* unto you:

- 11 searching what, or what manner of time the Spirit of Christ which was in them did signify, when it testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ, and the glory that should follow.
- 12 Unto whom it was revealed, that not unto themselves, but unto us they did minister the things, which are now reported unto you by them that have preached the gospel unto you with the Holy Ghost sent down from heaven; which things the angels desire to look into.

A Call to Holy Living

- 13 ¶ Wherefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and hope to the end for the grace that is to be brought unto you at the revelation of Jesus Christ;
- 14 as obedient children, not fashioning yourselves according to the former lusts in your ignorance:
- 15 but as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation;
- 16 because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy.
- 17 And if ye call on the Father, who without respect of persons judgeth according to every man's work, pass the time of your sojourning *here* in fear:
- 18 forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, *as* silver and gold, from your vain conversation *received* by tradition from your fathers;
- 19 but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot:
- 20 who verily was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you,
- 21 who by him do believe in God, that raised him up from the dead, and gave him glory; that your faith and hope might be in God.
- 22 ¶ Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, *see that ye* love one another with a pure heart fervently:

- 23 being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by
the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever.
- 24 For all flesh *is* as grass,
and all the glory of man as the flower of grass.
The grass withereth,
and the flower thereof falleth away:
- 25 but the word of the Lord endureth for ever.
And this is the word which by the gospel is preached unto you.

2

- 1 Wherefore laying aside all malice, and all guile, and hypocrisies,
and envies, and all evil speakings,
- 2 as newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may
grow thereby:
- 3 if so be ye have tasted that the Lord *is* gracious.

Christ the Living Stone

- 4 ¶ To whom coming, *as unto* a living stone, disallowed indeed of
men, but chosen of God, *and* precious,
- 5 ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, a holy
priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by
Jesus Christ.
- 6 Wherefore also it is contained in the Scripture,
Behold, I lay in Zion a chief corner stone, elect, precious:
and he that believeth on him shall not be confounded.
- 7 Unto you therefore which believe *he is* precious: but unto them
which be disobedient,
the stone which the builders disallowed,
the same is made the head of the corner,
- 8 and a stone of stumbling,
and a rock of offense,
even to them which stumble at the word, being disobedient:
whereunto also they were appointed.

God's Own People

- 9 ¶ But ye *are* a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should show forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvelous light:
10 which in time past *were* not a people, but *are* now the people of God: which had not obtained mercy, but now have obtained mercy.

Live as Servants of God

- 11 ¶ Dearly beloved, I beseech *you* as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul;
12 having your conversation honest among the Gentiles: that, whereas they speak against you as evildoers, they may by *your* good works, which they shall behold, glorify God in the day of visitation.
13 ¶ Submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord's sake: whether it be to the king, as supreme;
14 or unto governors, as unto them that are sent by him for the punishment of evildoers, and for the praise of them that do well.
15 For so is the will of God, that with well doing ye may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men:
16 as free, and not using *your* liberty for a cloak of maliciousness, but as the servants of God.
17 Honor all *men*. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the king.

The Example of Christ's Suffering

- 18 ¶ Servants, *be* subject to *your* masters with all fear; not only to the good and gentle, but also to the froward.
19 For this is thankworthy, if a man for conscience toward God endure grief, suffering wrongfully.
20 For what glory is it, if, when ye be buffeted for your faults, ye shall take it patiently? but if, when ye do well, and suffer *for* it, ye take it patiently, this is acceptable with God.

- 21 For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps:
22 who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth:
23 who, when he was reviled, reviled not again; when he suffered, he threatened not; but committed *himself* to him that judgeth righteously:
24 who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed.
25 For ye were as sheep going astray; but are now returned unto the Shepherd and Bishop of your souls.

3

The Behavior of Wives and Husbands

- 1 Likewise, ye wives, *be* in subjection to your own husbands; that, if any obey not the word, they also may without the word be won by the conversation of the wives;
2 while they behold your chaste conversation *coupled* with fear.
3 Whose adorning, let it not be that outward *adorning* of plaiting the hair, and of wearing of gold, or of putting on of apparel;
4 but *let it be* the hidden man of the heart, in that which is not corruptible, *even the ornament* of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price.
5 For after this manner in the old time the holy women also, who trusted in God, adorned themselves, being in subjection unto their own husbands:
6 even as Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him lord: whose daughters ye are, as long as ye do well, and are not afraid with any amazement.
7 ¶ Likewise, ye husbands, dwell with *them* according to knowledge, giving honor unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life; that your prayers be not hindered.

Suffer for Righteousness' Sake

- 8 ¶ Finally, *be ye* all of one mind, having compassion one of another;
love as brethren, *be* pitiful, *be* courteous:
9 not rendering evil for evil, or railing for railing: but contrariwise
blessing; knowing that ye are thereunto called, that ye should
inherit a blessing.
- 10 For he that will love life,
and see good days,
let him refrain his tongue from evil,
and his lips that they speak no guile:
11 let him eschew evil, and do good;
let him seek peace, and ensue it.
- 12 For the eyes of the Lord *are* over the righteous,
and his ears *are open* unto their prayers:
but the face of the Lord *is* against them that do evil.
- 13 ¶ And who *is* he that will harm you, if ye be followers of that which
is good?
- 14 But and if ye suffer for righteousness' sake, happy *are ye*: and be not
afraid of their terror, neither be troubled;
15 but sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and *be* ready always to *give*
an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is
in you, with meekness and fear:
16 having a good conscience; that, whereas they speak evil of you, as
of evildoers, they may be ashamed that falsely accuse your good
conversation in Christ.
- 17 For *it is* better, if the will of God be so, that ye suffer for well doing,
than for evildoing.
- 18 For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust,
that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but
quickened by the Spirit:
19 by which also he went and preached unto the spirits in prison;
20 which sometime were disobedient, when once the long-suffering of
God waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was a preparing,
wherein few, that is, eight souls were saved by water.

- 21 The like figure whereunto *even* baptism doth also now save us, (not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God,) by the resurrection of Jesus Christ:
 22 who is gone into heaven, and is on the right hand of God; angels and authorities and powers being made subject unto him.

4

Good Stewards of God's Grace

- 1 Forasmuch then as Christ hath suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves likewise with the same mind: for he that hath suffered in the flesh hath ceased from sin;
 2 that he no longer should live the rest of *his* time in the flesh to the lusts of men, but to the will of God.
 3 For the time past of *our* life may suffice us to have wrought the will of the Gentiles, when we walked in lasciviousness, lusts, excess of wine, revelings, banquetings, and abominable idolatries:
 4 wherein they think it strange that ye run not with *them* to the same excess of riot, speaking evil of *you*:
 5 who shall give account to him that is ready to judge the quick and the dead.
 6 For, for this cause was the gospel preached also to them that are dead, that they might be judged according to men in the flesh, but live according to God in the spirit.
 7 ¶ But the end of all things is at hand: be ye therefore sober, and watch unto prayer.
 8 And above all things have fervent charity among yourselves: for charity shall cover the multitude of sins.
 9 Use hospitality one to another without grudging.
 10 As every man hath received the gift, *even so* minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.
 11 If any man speak, *let him speak* as the oracles of God; if any man minister, *let him do it* as of the ability which God giveth; that God in

all things may be glorified through Jesus Christ: to whom be praise and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.

Suffering as a Christian

- 12 ¶ Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you:
13 but rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that, when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy.
14 If ye be reproached for the name of Christ, happy *are ye*; for the Spirit of glory and of God resteth upon you: on their part he is evil spoken of, but on your part he is glorified.
15 But let none of you suffer as a murderer, or *as* a thief, or *as* an evildoer, or as a busybody in other men's matters.
16 Yet if *any man suffer* as a Christian, let him not be ashamed; but let him glorify God on this behalf.
17 For the time *is come* that judgment must begin at the house of God: and if *it first begin* at us, what shall the end *be* of them that obey not the gospel of God?
18 And if the righteous scarcely be saved, where shall the ungodly and the sinner appear?
19 Wherefore, let them that suffer according to the will of God commit the keeping of their souls *to him* in well doing, as unto a faithful Creator.

5

Tend the Flock of God

- 1 The elders which are among you I exhort, who am also an elder, and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that shall be revealed:

- 2 Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight
thereof, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a
ready mind;
- 3 neither as being lords over *God's* heritage, but being ensamples to
the flock.
- 4 And when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown
of glory that fadeth not away.
- 5 Likewise, ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder. Yea, all *of*
you be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility: for
God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble.
- 6 ¶ Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that
he may exalt you in due time:
- 7 casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you.
- 8 Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring
lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:
- 9 whom resist steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same
afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world.
- 10 But the God of all grace, who hath called us unto his eternal glory
by Christ Jesus, after that ye have suffered a while, make you
perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle *you*.
- 11 To him *be* glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.

Final Greetings

- 12 ¶ By Silvanus, a faithful brother unto you, as I suppose, I have
written briefly, exhorting, and testifying that this is the true grace
of God wherein ye stand.
- 13 The *church that is* at Babylon, elected together with *you*, saluteth
you; and *so doth* Mark my son.
- 14 Greet ye one another with a kiss of charity.
- ¶ Peace *be* with you all that are in Christ Jesus. Amen.